



Power, Peace, Poetry Women's Perspectives on Society's Divisions

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Exercises to be applied in adult education

Activity title	Storytelling
Objectives	<p>The objectives are to help learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand the diversity of viewpoints • increase empathy • understand the power of perspective and find joy in difficult circumstances
Materials	<p>Objects chosen previously by the participants, paper for illustrating ideas (minimal size A3) and markers, data projector for audio-visual information.</p>
Time	2h
Group size	Up to 15 people
Instructions for trainers	<p>The method is intended to highlight the multiplicity of viewpoints in a case of similar event; to illustrate the power of a perspective in meaning creation, and to increase empathy.</p> <p>Before the meeting, give the students a task: choose an event that all participants would know, and describe your personal experiences of it. Use different media to share your experience (video, subject, music, written text, oral narration, etc.) and be prepared to share your story of the event with other participants within 5-10 minutes.</p> <p>When all participants meet, start with an introduction and describe the purpose of the method. For example, to demonstrate the multiplicity of perspectives and the subjectivity of the experience of perception.</p> <p>Ask participants to listen to each other's stories and try to find at least one familiar aspect and one unfamiliar aspect in each story. As we listen to others, we try to understand what they may have felt and how I relate to their experience. As an educator, listen to the stories as well and make the same notes yourself - one familiar and one unfamiliar aspect.</p> <p>When everyone has shared the stories, share what we noted to be familiar in the stories of our companions. The purpose of this is to find the common ground in our stories.</p> <p>As an educator, you can conclude that although the event we described is the same, there are as many constantly changing stories about it as there are different people.</p>
Debriefing and evaluation	<p>Was it easy for you to accept the different perspectives of the known event? Was it challenging to find common and different aspects in other's stories? Which one was easier to find and why? Why do we have different stories of the same event? Would you consider it to be a good thing or a bad thing? What does the method illustrate for you? What would you say the power of perspective is?</p>

Tips for trainers

Give clear directions for learners for preparation. During the method, ask questions so that the students can make conclusions themselves. Some good questions are suggested in the previous section. If the students are struggling to come to the conclusions about the power of perspective and the power of free will they have in choosing their perspective of any event, then guide them to the understanding with more directive questions and even suggestions perhaps. It is important that the students leave with the understanding that they choose the perspective and the perspective is a powerful starting point of meaning creation. They should feel empowered when they leave.